

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 02110 181425Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 HA-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ARA-10
/100 W

-----094980 181430Z /42

O 181400Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO ADDIS ABABA NIACT IMMEDIATE 3075
USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE 2775
SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6648
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 2110

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, PORG, USC, ET, SO, NI
SUBJECT: NIGERIAN EFFORT TO MEDIATE HORN PROBLEM

1 ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR BADEMA TOLD ME THIS MORNING AS FOLLOWS.

2. ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION DID NOT SHOW IN LAGOS AS ORGINALLY
SCHEDULED EARLY LAST WEEK BECAUSE THEY WERE PIQUED AT COMMENT
MADE BY GARBA TO A LAGOS DAILY TIMES REPORTER IN NAIROBI CONCERNING
ROLE OF SOVIET AND CUBAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE. MENGISTU SAW
COMMENT AS PARTIAL TO SOMALIS. GARBA'S SUBSEQUENT ATTEMPT TO
CLARIFY VIEWED AS LAME AND INADEQUATE, AND THIS WAS
REASON FOR FURTHER DELAY IN DESPATCH OF DELEGATION.
BADEMA TOOK SAME VIEW OF CLARIFICATION AND THEREFORE
HELD BACK REPORTING IT TO ADDIS ABABA. HE WAS UNABLE, HOWEVER,
TO PREVENT ITS REACHING ADDIS ABABA ANYWAY SINCE LAGOS DAILY
TIMES CIRCULATES IN NAIROBI AND IS CAREFULLY MONITORED BY EPMG.

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3. OBASANJO, WHO IS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO MEDIATION EFFORT AND
IS FOLLOWING IT VERY CLOSELY, SUMMONED AMBASSADOR BADEMA
THREE DAYS AGO AND EXPRESSED DISMAY AT NON-ARRIVAL OF ETHIOPIANS.
BADEMA NOW RPT NOW AWAITING WORD FROM MENGISTU
AS TO WHETHER DELEGATION IS INDEED ON ITS WAY ONCE AGAIN. HE
BELIEVES AND HOPES IT IS. HE HAS URGED THAT AT LEAST ONE
ETHIOPIAN OFFICIAL COME. PURPOSE OF MISSION IS TO DELIVER

MENGISTU MESSAGE TO OBASANJO RESPONDING TO PROPOSAL FOR
NEGOTIATIONS THAT GARBA DELIVERED IN ADDIS ABABA.

4. BADEMA SAYS NIGERIAN PROPOSAL HAS SEVERAL
USEFUL ELEMENTS AND HE EXPECTS RESPONSE WILL BE FORTHCOMING.
HOWEVER, ESSENTIAL PRECONDITION TO TALKING WITH SOMALIS REMAINS
PRIOR WITHDRAWAL OF OR FIRM AGREEMENT TO WITHDRAW ALL SOMALI
FORCES FROM THE OGADEN. ETHIOPIANS REMAIN DISAPPOINTED THAT
NIGERIANS SO FAR UNWILLING TO ACCEPT VALIDITY OF THIS PREMISE.
AMBASSADOR IMPLIED THAT CORRESPONDING WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIETS
AND CUBANS FROM OGADEN MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE BUT TERMED
"IMPOSSIBLE" ANY SUGGESTION OF THEIR WITHDRAWAL FROM ETHIOPIA.

5. IT WILL NOT RPT NOT MATTER WHETHER GARBA AND AKADIRI WILL
HAVE YET RETURNED FROM TRIPOLI. OBASANJO WILL BE WILLING TO RECEIVE
THE ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION HIMSELF.

6. BADEMA STRESSED THAT ETHIOPIA WOULD BE OBLIGED IN ANY
NEGOTIATIONS TO INSIST ON DEMARCATION OF SOUTHERN FRONTIER ALONG
LINES AGREED IN TREATY MENELIK SIGNED WITH ITALIANS IN 1895.
HE SAID HE WOULD NOT RULE OUT AN OAU ROLE IN ASSURING SUCH
DEMARCATION. AS FOR SOMALI CONCERN OVER REPRISALS AGAINST
OGADEN POPULATION FOLLOWING WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALI FORCES,
AMBASSADOR SAID EPMG WOULD REGARD SUCH CONCERN WITH DERISION.
THE CONCEPT WAS INSULTING.

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: INTERVENTION, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
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ISecure: 1
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TAGS: PDEV, PORG, US, ET, SO, NI
To: ADDIS ABABA USUN NEW YORK
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vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b9ed07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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